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E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Construction works begin after 40-day hiatus

Industrial production too picks up pace after COVID-19 lockdown relaxation with precautions

Mysuru, May 7 (RK&BCT)- The sound of hammers striking hot iron, loaders shifting iron rods and wooden poles from trucks to ground site, drilling and crushing of stones and trucks transporting sand and construction materials is emanating from almost all localities of Mysuru city as the construction of stalled building and residential projects has resumed. Likewise, industrial production too has resumed after a gap of more than 40 days.

Though construction activities are expected to be in full pace in another two to three days, realtors, contractors and builders are cheering the lockdown relaxation to the construction industry. One of the activities that have been allowed to resume even in the Red Zones is construction for the economy to pick up.

In urban areas, construction activities have been limited to in-situ construction (where workers are available on site and no workers are required to be brought in from outside) and construction of renewable energy projects, the Government order read.

Only in private sector

However, construction activities have begun only in the private sector with the Government sector yet to begin activities. Contractors and builders said that there is no shortage of construction material as there is easy availability of bricks, hardware, and other materials.

(See WORKS on page 6)

Gas leak: 11 killed, 300 hospitalised in Vizag

Visakhapatnam, May 7 (UNI)- A gas leak at a polymer plant in Visakhapatnam has killed 11 people and forced the evacuation of thousands of people in the 3-kilometre radius. The leakage of styrene gas, which causes nausea and dizziness, took place early this morning when the plant was preparing to resume production later today in view of the eased COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

(See KILLED on page 5)

Kodava Family Hockey Tournament Founder Pandanda Kuttappa passes away

Kuttappa

Bengaluru, May 7- Pandanda Kuttappa (Kuttani), Founder of the Kodava Family Hockey Tournament, passed away at his residence in Bengaluru this morning. He was 85.

He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of relatives and friends.

A retired Manager at State Bank of India (SBI), Kuttappa was instrumental in starting the Kodava Family Hockey Tournament and had organised the first tournament way back in 1997 on the lines of Olympic Games which is being continued till now. His name has been entered in the Limca Book of Records for being instrumental in starting the Kodava Family Hockey Tournament.

Cremation was held at Rajajinagar Crematorium in Bengaluru this evening, according to family sources.

Dr. N. Chandrashekar donates Rs. 1 crore for PM CARES, Rs. 1 lakh for CM's Relief Fund

Mysuru, May 7 (PM&BCT)- In a noble gesture, Dr. N. Chandrashekar of Aadithya Adhikari Hospital, Gokulam, donated Rs. 1 crore to PM CARES Fund to mark his daughter Dr. Archana C. Rao's birthday today. He also donated Rs. 1 lakh to Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The cheques were handed over to Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar at Makkala Koota Swayam Seva Samsthe in city this morning. Dr. Chandrashekar, his wife Rani Chandrashekar and daughter Dr. Archana were present along with Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas and Dr. Gururaj, Ashakirana Hospital Founder-Trustee.

It may be recalled here that last year, Dr. Chandrashekar had donated Rs. 1 crore towards the Army's Rehabilitation and Welfare Fund and the cheque was handed over to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who had visited Mysuru in March last.

Speaking after handing over the cheques, Dr. Chandrashekar said that the money was gained from the society and he was giving it back to the society.

(See DONATE on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya

Corona steals colour, costume from these Bahuroopis

Itinerant performers or 'sadhus of the cemetery', these Budaga Jangama artistes struggle to make ends meet

Mysuru, May 7 (RKB&AM)- How many days since you last stepped out of the house? Got stuck in a traffic signal, saw a movie in a multiplex, went to a restaurant or went shopping on Devaraj Urs Road or at a Mall? Started reminiscing those days already?

For a person who can afford all these luxuries, that is what he tends to think about first amidst this lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But there are many other people whose only worry is how to make ends meet and feed the family. And the worst hit are tribal communities, folk artistes, street artistes, etc.

Saffron-dhoti clad Rama or Lakshmana

Many of us would have seen a saffron-dhoti clad Rama with his bow and arrow in hand, along with Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman with a tail on his back or a blue-bodied Krishna presenting Gitopadesha, a Trishula-wielding Shiva, Yamaraja with his Gadhe, Hidimba, Ravana, Shurpanakha and many others wandering the streets, visiting shops, going door-to-door, begging for money.

Who are they exactly? They are the 'Hagalu Veshadhaarigalu' or 'Bahuroopis' belonging to the Budaga Jangama community, whose profession is to don these roles, look the part of a celestial being and roam the streets of the city begging for money and food.

Impersonating mythological characters

Hagalu Vesha is a daytime performance. Hagalu Veshadhaarigalu are people who wander the length and breadth of any particular place, hardly spending any time at home. They are the people of many forms — Rama, Basava, Maruti-Anjaneya, Parmatma — they become them. They are 'Bahuroopis': Bahu meaning many and Roopi meaning forms. They wear costumes, tell riddles, sing, and in the end they ask for money. They have been engaged with sangeet kala (art of singing) since ancient times.

They are itinerant performers and are also known as the 'sadhus of the cemetery'. They impersonate mythological characters and stage amusing episodes that also comment on daily events. Largely, only male members of the community perform the musical traditions that have been orally passed down and nurtured within specific families of performers.

Originally from Srisailam Mutt in Andhra Pradesh, these Budaga Jangama artistes, whose deities are Sri Mallikarjuna and Yellamma Devi, came to Mysuru many generations ago and made it their home. Around 15 such families reside in huts at Yellamma Colony in Bannimantap. Although their native language is Telugu, Kannada is now their language. Whatever money these community artistes earn, they share it amongst everyone in the neighbourhood and eat and live together.

Curse of Corona

The Coronavirus pandemic which has brought the entire world to a somewhat grinding halt has had its ill effects on everyone. In a nation like ours which is known for its cultural richness and diversity, the worst hit are folk artistes and such tribes including the Budaga Jangama artistes. With no shops open in city and strict enforcement of lockdown, all the artistes are forced to stay at home, making it difficult to feed their families.

One of the senior Budaga Jangama artiste, Dodda Jayaram, speaking to *Star of Mysore*,' said, "Earlier, during the times of Maharajas of Mysore, our community had so much respect and love. People, especially children used to follow us while we toured the city in our costumes during Dasara. We used to entertain hundreds of people during Dasara. Even stars like Dr. Rajkumar and J. Jayalalithaa had seen us perform and had appreciated our art."

Struggle to earn money

"Children and the elders alike were in awe of our appearance and revered us since we dressed up as Gods. They gave us food along with money. But now with the advent of television and mobile phones, most of the younger lot do not even know about our existence. With changing times, we have lost the respect people had towards us and our 'Hagalu Vesha'. We struggle to earn money and hence have no choice than to beg, we need to survive too."

Future bleak

Another artiste, Sanna Jayaram said, "Now, we go anywhere there is a demand, even if they are musical programmes or some events. Shop owners give us around Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 when we visit their shops. We don't demand more ever. Our children need food, clothing, and shelter. Let this 'Hagalu Vesha' culture end with us. I don't want our children to carry on this tradition since there is no future for us or them. We want our children to go to school, get good education and find suitable jobs later on. Hope they have a better life than us."

Life comes to a standstill

"When we tour the villages, we create a makeshift shed outside the village, put on our costumes, put on the makeup and then go inside the villages. With sincere appreciation from the villagers, we present our shows at various events there and take whatever remuneration they give, we don't demand anything more," says Dodda Jayaram.

"Since more than a month, after the lockdown was announced, we haven't even worn our costumes. Life has come to a standstill. Some organisations or individual donors give us some food. That is our only means of survival. The Government has done nothing for our community. We need some recognition and remuneration from the Government too," says B. Ramanna, artiste.

KGLT donates food kits to Labour Department for distribution among migrant workers

Mysuru, May 7- Karnataka Green Leaf Threshing (KGLT), a tobacco green leaf processing unit of ITC Limited, situated at Nanjangud, donated 200 food kits as a relief measure to the needy migrant workers who are stranded in Mysuru.

Thamanna, Assistant Labour Commissioner, who is also the District Nodal Officer, personally received the food kits from ITC representatives.

Due to the lockdown, many migrant labour have been stranded in places far away from their homes and are finding it extremely difficult to manage their basic daily needs. Each kit consisted of: Rice - 4 kg, Oil - 1 litre, Tea Powder - 100 gms, Sugar - 2 kg, Salt - 1 kg, Toor Dal - 1 kg, Rava - 1 kg.

ITC Limited has already made donation of Rs. 150 crore to PM CARES Relief Fund, Rs. 2 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Rs. 2.5 lakh to the relief activity organised by the local Administration.

VOICE OF THE READER

Liquor sale during COVID-19 erased social distancing

Sir,

Whatever it may be the reasons for opening liquor shops amid COVID-19 in the country, social distancing has taken a back seat in many parts of the nation. It is feared that it may lead to spread of infection, if any one person in that group is symptomatic and contact tracing is also not possible in such occasions. Serpentine queues beyond 2 kms long are also seen in many places to buy the 'precious' liquid.

Increasing the price up to 75% did not deter the liquor lovers stop buying it. There was also a suggestion from public to mark the finger of the liquor buyers with indelible ink and such persons should be barred from receiving the free food and grocery distributed by charity organisations or the government.

It is very unfortunate that in some places teachers were assigned the job of controlling the unruly crowd who came to buy the liquor. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has cautioned people that consuming the liquor may weaken the body and reduce the immunity level making liquor consumers more susceptible for COVID-19 infection.

Hence, people may think twice before consuming the liquor, especially during COVID-19 pandemic and follow social distancing to avoid getting infected before the consumed alcohol damages their health.

— Dr. S. V. N. Vijayendra
on e-mail

Roopanagar
6.5.2020

Colonel Ashutosh Sharma SM: A terror to the terrorists

Coursemate recalls time spent with him during training at Officers Training Academy, Chennai

Mysuru, May 7- Col. Ashutosh Sharma SM, who was killed in action in the recent Handwara Terrorists Operations, had undergone training at the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai and was from the 2001 batch.

Disclosing this to *Star of Mysore*, Major (Retd.) Nayakanda Cariappa, his coursemate, proudly recalls the time spent with him during training. "His silent grit and affable nature to accomplish goals he had set for himself were noteworthy. We had together participated in the Inter Academy Games held at Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, as part of the Hockey team from OTA."

Cariappa

Hailing from Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, "he was passionate to join the Army, and had persevered to pass the Service Selection Board and don the Uniform. He was commissioned into the 19th Battalion, The Brigade of The Guards, the Regiment raised by Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa, OBE." The Regiment consists of pan India troops and is a Mechanised Infantry Regiment.

Col. Ashutosh Sharma SM

"This was his second tenure at Rashtriya Rifles. He had proven himself to be very effective in his operations, having been awarded the Sena Medal Gallantry, twice. The second being as recent as February 2020 as Commanding Officer of 21 RR," said Major Cariappa.

Capt. (Retd.) Malchira Aiyappa and Capt. (Retd.) Bolkaranda Kariappa, both a course junior to Colonel Ashutosh, warmly narrate the camaraderie and bonhomie they shared. "We stayed in the same barracks during our training days. He would always enquire of our well-being while ensuring we kept highest standards of discipline."

With the UP Chief Minster Yogi Adityanath leading the way in assuring a 'Dwar' in his name at his hometown, a park and Government School being named after him, and a statue being proposed to be erected, the Colonel's courage, valour and selfless service will be remembered for generations to come. The heroic Officer is survived by his elderly mother, brother, wife and a 12-year- old daughter in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

MGP meeting on House

Pets and Safety during COVID-19

Mysuru, May 7- The monthly meeting of Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) will be held on Sunday (May 10) at 4 pm. Because of the lock-down, the meeting will be held online.

The subject of the meeting is "House pets and safety during COVID-19 days." Dr. C.S. Arun, leading veterinarian, will be the resource person.

Members of the public who are interested in participating in the meeting are requested to send an e-mail to: mygrapa@gmail.com. They will be sent information and the link which will enable them to participate in the meeting online.

For further details contact Ph: 0821 2515150 or Mob: 9448855199, according to a press release from Mysore Grahakara Parishat Secretary.

Obituary

S. Sharadha

Mysuru, May 7- S. Sharadha (9), daughter of N. Srinivas and T. Sowmya and a resident of Ganesh Nagar, passed away yesterday at a private hospital in city after a brief illness.

She leaves behind her parents, sister Abhishree Nag, grandmother Nagamma and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Kailaspuram Burial Grounds this morning.

G. Shivamma

G. Shivamma (85), a resident of Vijayanagar 1st Stage, passed away on Tuesday morning in city.

She leaves behind her sons M. Ramachandra, JD(S) leader Ln. M. Pratap and M. Nataraj, daughters M. Vasanthamma and M. Padmavathi, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grand children, great grand children and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Chirashanthidhama in Golukam on Tuesday afternoon, according to family sources.

B.C. Vijayanand

B.C. Vijayanand (61), a resident of Dattagalli, passed away on Tuesday in city.

He leaves behind his wife, one son and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Veerashaiva Burial Grounds in Vidyaranyapuram on Wednesday, according to family sources.

Kerala's first tribal girl

who cracked civil service to join as Kozhikode Assistant Collector

Kozhikode, May 7 (UNI & Agencies)- Braving all odds, Sreedhanya Suresh, the first tribal woman from Kerala who cracked the civil service examination, will join as Assistant Collector in Kozhikode district. The 26-year-old Sreedhanya belongs to the Kurichya community in Pozhuthana village in Wayanad district.

The tribal woman, who is now undergoing training at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, will join duty after completing the mandatory quarantine period.

As soon as the news came out a few days ago, social media platforms were abuzz with details of her background and achievements. Her interviews, even those that date back a year, were widely shared to motivate youngsters, especially Civil Services aspirants.

Interestingly, she is posted under Kozhikode Collector Sreeram Sambasiva Rao, who inspired her to become a civil service officer, while he was serving as a Sub-Collector in Wayanad district earlier.

Sreedhanya secured 410th rank in the third attempt in civil service examination. She has won widespread acclaim for cracking the UPSC examinations. Sreedhanya's rise from an underprivileged background to securing 410th rank in one of the most prestigious examinations in the country is indeed motivational.

Sreedhanya Suresh

Second of three children of Suresh and Kamala, daily wage workers at Ambalakkolli in Pozhuthana Grama Panchayat in Wayanad district, Sreedhanya studied in local schools. She graduated in Zoology from St. Joseph College, Devagiri, Kozhikode, and completed post-graduation in Applied Zoology from the Calicut University campus.

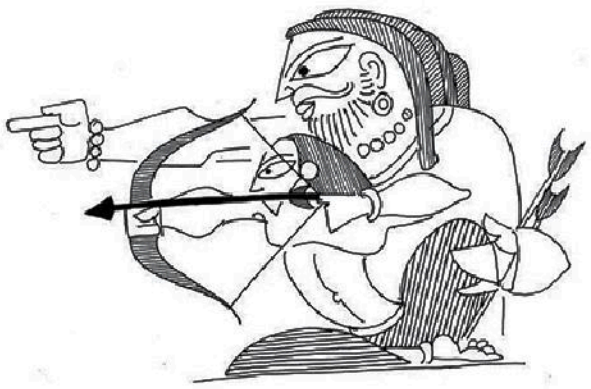
Though Civil Services had always been in the back of her mind, it was a meeting with Sreeram Sambasiva Rao, the then Sub-Collector of Manandavadi, four years ago that firmed up her resolve.

Sreedhanya with her parents and sibling in front of her house.

Decoding Mythology

Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik - Author, Speaker, Illustrator, Mythologist

Dharma During Crisis



As we go through a global pandemic which demands a major change in our lifestyle and which will have a major impact on the economy, it is a good time to remember a conversation in the Mahabharata, where Bhishma tells the Pandavas, about Apaddharma, or dharma during crisis.

In the Shatapatha Brahmana, dharma is defined as a state of being that reverses the jungle law. In the jungle, might is right; but, in a civilised society, the mighty take care of the weak. In the dharma-shastras, this principle is operationalised using the varna-ashrama guidelines.

Varna means respecting and following the vocation of our forefathers. The various vocations are classified into four groups: the knowledge economy of Brahmins; the land economy of Kshatriyas; the market economy of Vaishnavas and the service economy of Shudras. Ashrama means being a student for the first quarter of life; a house holder in the second; a retired person in the third (when the grandchild is born); and renunciation in the fourth (when the grandchild is married). This is complete division of labour as per Varna dharma. There is no burden of more than two generations on the earth's resources based on our life cycle. This conceptual framework works in an ideal situation; but how does one work during crises? Apaddharma talks about functioning during a crisis.

Once, when there was a drought, Vishwamitra had nothing to eat. He was forced to eat a dog. Another crisis is when a husband dies without having children. What does one do? Dharma shastras allow a woman to have relations with other men to produce children, as we see in the story of Ambika and Ambalika in the Mahabharata. In an economic downturn, it is said that the Brahmins can behave like the Kshatriyas, the Kshatriyas can behave like the Vaishnavas. Dharma Shastras give various examples how this can be done, with the caveat that, when the situation is good, one must revert to one's traditional occupation. But, does that ever happen?

For a long time, Indians didn't cross the sea, as they believed it resulted in the loss of caste. However, famine and an economic downturn, in the 19th and early 20th century, forced Indians to seek employment outside. Therefore, the idea of kala paani was revoked. Today, people have no issue crossing seas, because the world has changed. Crisis has forced us to change our minds. An economic crisis forced India to liberalise its economy. The crisis passed, but it is not advisable to pull back 'emergency reforms'. They have now become the norm. Economic crisis forces Indians to give up traditional vocations and migrate to cities and to foreign lands to do whatever they can to earn an income. The old jati system exists only in bigoted minds.

Bhishma, in his discourse of political economy, shows the need to change rules in calamity, provided the fundamental principle of protecting and providing for the weak remains. Most of us are staying at home, doing chores we would not do in normal circumstances. Husbands are involved in BJP (bartan, jhadoo, pocha). But, are we providing for our maids and support staff who are also isolated at home or forced to migrate back to village? Will we revert to old habits when the crisis passes? Points we need to consider. For Drona, who was forced to become a warrior in poverty, did not revert to being a priest when he acquired wealth.

[devdutt@devdutt.com

SKYWATCH

Biggest, Beautiful and Brightest Full Flower Supermoon tonight

On May 7, Indians will have an opportunity to witness the spectacular, resplendent, and last Supermoon of this year. This is known as lunar perigee and a normal lunar perigee averaging a distance of 362,479 kilometers happens once every orbital period. This event can be referred as "Supermoon." The term "Supermoon" was coined by the astrologer Richard Nolle. He generally describes Supermoon as perigee-syzygy; that is a new or Full Moon (syzygy) which occurs with the Moon at or near (within 90%) its closest approach to Earth (perigee) in a given orbit. In short, Earth, Moon and Sun are all in a line, with Moon in its nearest approach to Earth.

This February, Full Moon ushered in the second in a series of four Full Moon Supermoon occurring on Feb.9 (362,479 km), Mar.9 (357,404 km), Apr.8 (357,035 km) and the final one will happen on May 7 (361,181 km) and three New Moon Supermoon on Sept.17, Oct.16 and Nov.15. All of these full moons are less than 363,000 km (225,000 miles) distant as measured from the centers of the Earth and Moon. In contrast, the previous year's farthest full moon on Sept.14, 2019 resided at a distance of 406,248 km or 252,431 miles. The Full Moons of February, March, April and May of 2020 are regarded as Supermoons because of their relative nearness to Earth.

It is a scientific fact that when the Moon is at perigee there is more gravitational pull, creating higher tides or significant variations in high and low tides. In addition, the tidal effect of the Sun's gravitational field increases the Moon's orbital eccentricity when the orbit's major axis is aligned with the Sun-Earth vector. The average tidal bulge closely follows the Moon in its orbit, and the Earth rotates under this tidal bulge in just over a day. However, the rotation drags the position of the tidal bulge ahead of the position directly under the Moon. Generally tidal forces contribute to ocean currents, which moderate global temperatures by transporting heat energy toward the poles. It has been suggested that in addition to other factors, harmonic beat variations in tidal forcing may contribute to climate changes.

From extreme coastal tides to severe storms to powerful earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, the entire natural world surges and spasms under the sway of the Supermoon alignment — within three days either way of the exact syzygy, as a general rule. The geocosmic risk raised by Supermoon alignments will pass with little notice in our immediate vicinity. A Supermoon is planetary in scale, being a special alignment of Earth, Sun and Moon. It's likewise planetary in scope, in the sense that there's no place on Earth not subject to the tidal force of the perigee-syzygy. The effects on Earth from a Supermoon are minor, and according to the most detailed studies by terrestrial seismologists and volcanologists, the combination of the Moon being at its closest to Earth in its orbit, and being in its 'Full Moon' configuration (relative to the Earth and Sun), should not affect the internal energy balance of the Earth since there are lunar tides every day.

To view this weekend's Supermoon to best effect, look for it just after it rises or before it sets, when it is close to the horizon. There, you can catch a view of the moon behind buildings or trees, an effect which produces an optical illusion, making the moon seem even larger than it really is. We are even privileged to see this spectacle on May 7 of 2020 (Buddha Poornima). But if we need to witness the similar type of Supermoon with almost the same distance, we may have to wait till 2026. So, today, everyone be curious to witness this exiting astronomical spectacle and spread the grandeur and essence of Astronomy.

—Dr. S.A. Mohan Krishna
Observational Astronomer

Former MLA M.K. Somashekar demands inclusion of Journalists and Tailors in relief package

Mysuru, May 7 (RKB&DM)- A day after Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa announced a Rs. 1,610 crore package for certain sections of the working class, former KR MLA M.K. Somashekar has urged the CM to cover Journalists and Tailors too in the package.

Addressing a press meet at Congress Bhavan near the City Railway Station here this morning, he said that the Government has announced relief for Barbers, Washermen, Auto and Taxi drivers and construction workers while ignoring other sections of the working class.

Pointing out that Journalists and Tailors too are facing a lot of hardship following the COVID-19 lockdown, he said that the Newspaper Industry is in distress due to lack of advertisements. The tailors who earn their livelihood by stitching clothes too have been thrown out of their jobs. When such is the situation, the Government should announce a package covering Journalists and Tailors as well, he urged.

Demands closure of liquor shops

Lashing out at the State Government's decision to allow re-opening of licensed liquor shops even before the lockdown could end, Somashekar claimed that crime graph has started to shoot up with the opening of liquor shops.

Stating that the re-opening of liquor shops has made the Policemen to stand guard in front of the shops for enforcement of lockdown regulations and to prevent any untoward incidents, the former MLA urged the Government to close down liquor shops till the lockdown gets over in full.

City Congress President R. Murthy, District President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, leader Bhaskar Gowda and others were present at the press meet.

Buddha Poornima celebrated in city

Mysuru, May 7- Buddha Poornima was celebrated this morning in city without traditional large gatherings due to restrictions.

At Vishwa Mythri Buddha Vihara located near Ashoka Circle (Ballal Circle), devotees offered prayers in small groups. Kalyanasiri Bantheji graced the occasion. Chamarajanagar MP V. Sreenivasa Prasad and former Mayor Purushotham were present. Buddha Vandana, Dhamma Vandana, Sangha Vandana, Dhyana and other traditional rituals were held in which participants offered

prayers in small groups.

Karnataka Buddha Dhamma Samiti had organised an event at Samiti premises in Vijayanagar First Stage.

Every year, Buddhist monks celebrate Buddha Jayanti in a grand manner at Namdroling Monastery in Bylakuppe.

From 20 years, on this day, they used to offer special prayers to 180 feet statue of Buddha Shakyamuni (Gautama Buddha) and showcase Thangka paintings. But today, due to Coronavirus outbreak, the Namdroling Monastery decided to offer prayers without much fanfare and the monks offered prayers in their rooms.

Gas leak: 11 killed

(Continued from page 1)

In the villages closest to the plant located on the outskirts of the city, visuals on social media early this morning showed people lying motionless on the streets, at least two had fallen into the drains.

Elsewhere also, there were videos of parents carrying unconscious children in their arms on the streets and running to get medical help. Many others were seen dazed sitting on the pavements. Some more lay on the roads, a young woman among them was seen collapsing. The Municipal Corporation tweeted that people in an area within approximately 3-kilometre radius of the plant were vulnerable.

The incident evoked memories of the gas leaked from a pesticide plant in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal in 1984. That incident, counted among one of the world's worst industrial disasters, had killed 3,500 people.

In Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi dialled Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and promised all the help that he would need. Jagan Mohan Reddy left Visakhapatnam soon after.

PM Modi also called a meeting of the National Disaster Management Authority that he leads. "I pray for everyone's safety and well-being in Visakhapatnam," PM Modi said in a tweet before the meeting started. According to news agency ANI, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) chief S.N. Pradhan said about 1,000 to 1,500 people had been evacuated by the authorities and more than 800 taken to hospital.

Most of the people taken to hospital were later discharged. Visakhapatnam District Medical and Health Officer Tirumala Rao told reporters, around 2 pm that 300 people were still admitted to various hospitals. Late afternoon, Pradhan told a news briefing in Delhi that 11 people had died in the incident.

Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has announced Rs. 1 crore compensation for the next of kin of the dead besides Rs. 10 lakh to people who have been put on ventilator and Rs. 25,000 to those who were treated as outpatients. The Chief Minister also announced that a committee has been set up to probe the incident and the Government was prepared to have the company shift to a different location if recommended by the panel.

Coronavirus: Mysuru Zoo 'overwhelmed' with donations

With Rs. 1.05 crore donated today, Zoo earns Rs. 2.32 crore towards its maintenance

District Minister S.T. Somashekar presenting a memento on behalf of Mysuru Zoo to Urban Development Minister Byrati Basavaraju at the Zoo this morning as ZAK Member-Secretary B.P. Ravi and MLAs S.A. Ramdas and L. Nagendra look on.

Mysuru, May 7 (MTY&KS)- Thanks to District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo), which would otherwise have been in deep trouble owing to zero footfall following the outbreak of the deadly Coronavirus, is 'overwhelmed' with the donations pouring in.

The Minister, who was concerned about the maintenance of the denizens from the day the lockdown was announced, sincerely made efforts to collect funds from the people of his Yeshwanthpur Constituency, friends, philanthropists and his Ministerial colleagues apart from his pocket to tide over the Corona crisis. With Rs. 1.05 crore contribution today, so far he has donated Rs.2,31,60,000 to the Zoo.

An amount of Rs. 1,05,14,000 in the form of cheques were handed over to the Mysuru Zoo authorities this morning.

While District Minister Somashekar handed over a cheque for Rs. 21.14 lakh, his colleague Urban Development Minister Byrati Basavaraju handed over a cheque for Rs. 84 lakh today. It is for the third time the District Minister is handing over the donation, collected from his friends and the people of his Constituency. Minister Somashekar had earlier donated Rs. 73,60,000 and Rs. 45,30,000 respectively for the maintenance of the Zoo, which is facing severe financial crisis following the closure due to lockdown.

Following a request by Minister Somashekar, Urban Development Minister Byrati Basavaraju, who also collected donations from his friends and people of his Constituency (Krishnarajapuram), handed over the cheque for Rs. 84 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Somashekar thanked all those who donated generously for the maintenance of Mysuru Zoo and added that he has also requested Amarnath Gowda and Vishwamitha of Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA) for funds.

Minister Byrati Basavaraju, who also spoke said that Minister Somashekar had sought financial help to Mysuru Zoo and added that he managed to collect Rs. 84 lakh from his friends and the people of his Constituency in just two days.

He further said "We humans can ask for food when we are hungry but the animals cannot. As human beings we cannot and should not make the animals suffer in any ways and hunger is one of them. Hence I collected donations and handed over the cheque to Mysuru Zoo."

The Zoo authorities are "touched and overwhelmed" by the large amount of donations pouring in to feed the animals. On behalf of Mysuru Zoo, District Minister Somashekar presented a memento to Minister Byrati Basavaraju for his gesture.

It may be recalled, Food & Civil Supplies Minister K. Gopalaiah too had handed over a cheque for Rs. 8 lakh to the Zoo in the presence of his Ministerial colleague Somashekar recently.

MP Pratap Simha, MLAs S.A. Ramdas and L. Nagendra, Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Member-Secretary B.P. Ravi, Mysuru Zoo Executive Director Ajit M. Kulkarni and others were present.

Sudha Murty donates Rs. 20 lakh

Infosys Foundation Chairperson Sudha Murty has donated Rs. 20 lakh to Mysuru Zoo following an appeal by District Minister, according to a press release from the Minister's office this evening.

Exhibit responsible behaviour, DC tells Mysureans

Mysuru, May 7 (PM&BCT)- The number of COVID-19 positive cases is rising every day, and so is the death toll. Fortunately, Mysuru is slowly and steadily coming out of the Red Zone with only a handful positive patients admitted at the designated hospital.

Scientists seem to believe that this pandemic will wreak more havoc. This is why Governments have prohibited the movement of people. Now that some of the restrictions have been lifted, people need to be more responsible and see to it that the virus will not spread its tentacles.

Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, the face behind the district's fight against the pandemic has a word of caution. "So many restrictions have been relaxed. We need to be responsible and avoid unnecessary movements and contacts. Otherwise there will again be a lockdown," he warned.

"Most people are voluntarily following the restrictions, but there are some who are not ready to make the sacrifices needed to deal with the pandemic," the DC said, sharing his thoughts with reporters at an event held this morning at Makkala Koota Swayam Seva Samsthe in city.

"There is no doubt that by implementing the lockdown in time, the virus spread has been limited. It has given us enough time to prepare to contain the virus and ramp up health infrastructure. Now there is movement at a time when we have zero emergence of positive cases. In the near future many people will come to the district from other States and even abroad. We need to watch out. Unless there is cooperation from people, the Government cannot handle things alone," the DC said.

"It is very important that we wash our hands properly all the time and also spread awareness. Coronavirus is an issue which we must not take lightly. The war against Coronavirus is far from over and everyone must follow Government guidelines and follow basic principles like maintaining personal hygiene, avoiding contacts and at the same time give importance to social distancing," he said.

Dr. Chandrashekar donates

(Continued from page 1)

"The donation was made to PM CARES and CM's Relief Fund as our contribution to combat COVID-19 pandemic. More and more people must come forward to donate funds for this joint fight," he said.

Dr. Archana Rao said that it was her best birthday as her father has donated money to the cause of the nation. "Last year too Rs. 1 crore was donated to Army's Rehabilitation and Welfare Fund on my birthday and it was a memorable event," she said.

Accepting the cheque, Deputy Commissioner Abhiram Sankar said that Dr. Chandrashekar always contributed for the welfare of the society. Arrangements will be made to transfer the money to the respective funds, he added.

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Construction works begin

(Continued from page 1)

"Cement is a concern as there is short-supply. We don't stock up cement and a bag of cement is being sold between Rs.400 and Rs. 500. Usually, the price is Rs. 380 per bag," Dinesh, a Class 1 Contractor told *Star of Mysore*.

While the private sector has begun construction, the Government sector is slow to initiate works including several pending works such as bridges, buildings and roads. In Mysuru, a majority of Government construction is taken up by Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru Urban Development Authority, Minor Irrigation Department, Public Works Department and Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited.

Initial hiccups overcome

CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India) Mysore Chapter President H.S. Subramanyam told this newspaper that the industry has begun activities and will resume in full swing in one or two days. "Yes, there is movement of goods from godowns and construction sites and we have local labour. The initial hiccups have been overcome," he said.

Immediate Past Chairman of Builders Association of India (BAI), Mysuru Centre, B.S. Dinesh too was optimistic that the economy will brighten up with the construction industry picking up pace after a long hiatus. Except that the industry is not getting workers from Nanjangud as the area is still sealed due to COVID-19 spread, other workers are travelling to construction sites with adequate precautions.

"I can confidently say that 30 to 40 percent of the activity has begun with local workforce and transportation. Even we have skilled migrant workers from other places who have not left Mysuru. A lot of projects have been kept pending. The industry was sitting idle and had no work. Now that work has started, it feels nice and this has got a boost," he said.

Industrial production

Along with construction industry, industrial production too has begun in Mysuru. There are over 26,000 industries including small, medium and large scale. Mysuru Industries Association (MIA) Secretary Suresh Kumar Jain said that all industries located in areas like Yadavagiri, Metagalli, Hebbal, Hootagalli, Koorgalli, Vishweshwaranagar and Thandya in Nanjangud have stepped up production.

"We are taking all precautions including daily fogging, social distancing, wearing masks and using sanitisers at every step. All these measures have been made mandatory and we are following the Government guidelines," Suresh Jain said.

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Unidentified body found

Mysuru, May 7- Varuna Police have found a body of an unidentified woman floating in Varuna Lake on Tuesday morning and have registered a case.

The deceased, aged between 50 and 60 years, is 5 ft. tall, oily red complexioned, normal built, oval faced and was wearing a yellow colour saree with green design. Those having any information about the deceased may contact Varuna Police Station on Ph: 0821-2594411 or call the District Control Room on Phone: 0821-2444800.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,754
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	7
Total samples tested	:	4,667
Samples found negative	:	4,677
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	83
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	28
Persons cured / discharged	:	11
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	705
Persons cured / discharged	:	366
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	30
Total active cases in India	:	35,902
Persons cured / discharged	:	15,266
Death toll so far in India	:	1,783

(Note: Some of the figures of Mysuru are as on May 6. Media bulletin for May 7 not available)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

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STAY at home PRAY at home
everyone has a reason to pray

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